

Count Ciano's Diary—No. 12

HITLER TALKS, IL DUCE LISTENS AT BRENNER

Nazis Struck in North While Italy
Looked for Action in Balkans

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March 18—May 9, 1940.

Hitler summoned Mussolini to the Brenner Pass in March, 1940, after which, while the Italians were expecting some new German move in the Balkans, the Fuehrer launched his armies against Denmark and Norway. Count Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law, records in his intimate diary.

Ciano's account is the first available eyewitness story of one of these famous dictators' sessions which always left Mussolini depressed because Hitler did all the talking. The end of the Norwegian campaign found Hitler complaining that victory had been so speedy it had been impossible to engage the major British forces and destroy them.

Ciano wrote:
March 18—"It is snowing at Brenner Pass. Mussolini is waiting for the guest with a sense of anxious pleasure. More and more recently he has felt a fascination for the Fuehrer. . . . He tells me that he had a dream during the night that tore the veil from the future, but he does not say what it was. This has happened on other occasions, he says. Once he dreamed of forcing a stream, and woke to learn the future question was about to be solved.

Hitler Talks at Meeting While Mussolini Listens

"The Hitler meeting is cordial on both sides. The conference is more a monologue than anything else. Hitler speaks all the time, with more calm than usual. He gestures rarely and speaks in a quiet voice. He is well physically. Mussolini listens with interest and deference. He speaks little and confirms his decision to move with Germany."

March 19—"At heart Mussolini resented the fact that Hitler did all the talking. He wanted to tell him many things, but he kept his tongue quiet most of the time. As a dictator, or rather the dean of dictators, he's not in the habit of this."

March 20—"Before leaving Sumner Welles (representing President Roosevelt) on a survey of peace possibilities, spoke clearly to Blasco d'Aleja, who is a relative of his. Even without an offensive, Germany will be exhausted within a year. He considers the war already won by the French and British, with the United States prepared to guarantee this victory with all the weight of her power."

March 25—"Teleki (Hungarian prime minister) has avoided an open position one way or the other, but has not concealed his sympathy for the western powers and fears German victory. He is playing a waiting game. The Germans offer us some anti-aircraft batteries immediately. Mussolini plans to send for them."

March 27—"Teleki at dinner asks me abruptly, 'Do you know how to play bridge?'"

"Why?"
"For the day we shall be together in Dachau concentration camp."

March 29—"This report (on living conditions by an Italian who spent a month in Germany) has not modified Il Duce's outlook substantially, but he has admitted Germany is enjoying no bed of roses, and that failure of an offensive or a prolonged war would mean defeat and collapse for the German regime."

"I don't understand why Hitler doesn't realize this," he said. "I feel that the Fascist machine, under war and fear that is not serious but noticeable, yet he does not feel it in Germany, where the crisis is assuming rather alarming proportions."

Mussolini Irritated With Church Again

March 30—"Mussolini for the nth time is irritated with Catholicism, which he blames for 'having made Italy universal and preventing it from becoming national. When a country is universal it belongs to everyone but itself.'"

March 31—"Word reached me that Il Duce has in mind to dismiss me from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I do not believe it. . . . Mussolini is indignant with Sumner Welles because he told Chamberlain that Il Duce . . . appeared tired and perturbed. We learned this from one of the usual telegrams shown us by the British embassy."

April 3—"Violent change in favor of April 5."

April 5—"Last night I saw the German film of the attack on Poland. . . . It's a good film if the Germans wish merely to portray brute force, but it is bestial for purposes of propaganda."

"Single identified only as 'legal adviser of the embassy in London' brought a useless and general message from the Prime Minister (Chamberlain), one of those messages of good will destined to remain unanswered. But more important, his depressed tone, his nervous search for a compromise, his lack of faith in victory."

Denmark and Norway Invaded by Germans

April 8—"There is alarm in Budapest. . . . On the excuse that Russia will move soon in Eastern Europe, many intends to occupy the Romanian oilfields and asks free passage through Hungary. The price for this permission would be Transylvania. . . . Hungarian liberty would come to an end."

April 9—"They did not march on Romania. . . . At 2 o'clock this morning, a secretary of the German embassy arrived with a letter from Mackensen, asking to be received at 7. Nothing else. . . . He arrived at 6:30, pale and tired, and commiserated Hitler's decision to occupy Denmark and Norway, adding that the decision was already being executed."

"Mussolini said: 'I approve Hitler's action wholeheartedly. . . . This is the way to win wars. . . . I shall give orders to the press and to the Italian people to applaud the German action without reservation.'"

April 10—"News of the German action in the north has had a favorable echo among the Italian people, whom Mussolini describes as 'a prostitute that prefers a winner.' . . . Mackensen came to see me with a little baby. His wife had had a son. . . . I covered him with felicitations, since there is now nothing else to say."

April 11—"An urgent message from Hitler to Il Duce (last night). . . . Today he has prepared a warm answer: 'Beginning tomorrow, the Italian fleet will be ready, our pre-

paration on land and in the air is gaining pace.' . . . I remain skeptical. . . . He returned from a conference with the King (Victor), which did not satisfy him."

"He said: 'The King would like us to intervene only to win the peace. I hope they won't break them over our heads first. . . . To make a people great it is necessary to send them to battle, even with a kick in the seat.'"

Ciano was ill until April 20, when he reports a conversation with Prince Philip of Hesse, the King's son-in-law.

April 20—"He talked about the imminent offensive, and said Hitler blames only the bad weather for his inability to celebrate his birthday (April 20) in Paris."

Date for Italy's Entry Into War Changed

April 22—"This morning the date for Italy's entry into the war was changed to the spring of 1941 because Norway had postponed a solution and moved farther away from the center of European operations."

Reichsmarschal Goering still was making because Ribbentrop had received the ornate Collar of Annunziata, Italy's highest decoration."

April 23—"I speak of it to Il Duce. We mustn't make the voluminous half-dictator of the Reich suffer longer. Mussolini authorizes me to write a letter to the King, relating the pitiful situation of the tender Hermann."

April 25—"Mussolini accepts the nomination of Alfieri (an ambassador to Berlin, succeeding Altico, who was recalled at German request). . . . Il Duce gives him instructions. He repeats his faithfulness to the pacts, but says he will enter war only when he has a 'quasi-mathematical certainty of winning it.'"

April 26—"The answer to Regnaud (French premier who had suggested a meeting with Mussolini) is ready, a cold, cutting and contemptuous letter. . . . Il Duce also sent a brief telephone message to Hitler, advising him to hold Narvik (in northern Norway) as a last resort."

April 28—"Another letter from Hitler to Il Duce. . . . These in general, are of small importance, but Hitler is a good psychologist and knows that they reach deep into Mussolini's soul. . . . The Pope addressed a letter to Il Duce, in which he praised efforts for peace and prays that Italy will stay out of the conflict. Mussolini's reaction is skeptical, cold and sarcastic."

Duce Coldly Receives Roosevelt Warning

May 1—"Phillips (United States Ambassador) has a message from Roosevelt for Il Duce. It is a warning, hidden amid polite phrases, not to enter the war. . . . Mussolini received it with ill grace, believing Roosevelt openly in favor of the French and British. . . . He personally wrote a reply, cutting and hostile, arguing that if the Monroe Doctrine applies to the Americas, it must also apply to Europe."

May 2—"Von Ribbentrop says that the offensive on the Maginot Line will be as rapid as it is certain. . . . He is waiting for the first time, and our intervention because the war is now moving toward a quick victory."

May 3—"A new letter from Hitler to Il Duce. . . . He affirms the absolute neutrality of Spain, which is being built up the bone tissue destroyed by war and revolution."

May 4—"A new letter from Hitler to Il Duce. . . . He complains about the excessive speed of the victory which has made it impossible to engage British forces more effectively and to destroy them."

He concludes by saying that he intends to obtain victory in the west as soon as possible, and that he is compelled to do this by threats of American intervention."

May 9—"Badoglio . . . believes that a break-through of the Maginot Line would require 'six months' action and the sacrifice of a million men."

(Monday—The stab in the back.)

Soldier Divorces Wife After Letter Admits Affair

KANSAS CITY, Kans., June 30.—A soldier who has been overseas three years has been granted a divorce from his wife because she wrote him that she had been unfaithful to him.

The soldier, Corpl. Kenneth B. Hood, 30, introduced through his attorney a letter at the court hearing yesterday, in which his wife admitted an affair with another man and said she had had a daughter by this man in 1944.

She declared that "all the things I have written to you in the last year have been a lie," and she said she would give up all rights to their own daughter, Sandra, 5.

"It never was a shady love affair," she wrote. "I am really in love with him, Bill. But he is married, too. He is now in the South Pacific."

Five Die as Navy Plane Plunges Into Atlantic

MIAMI, Fla., June 30.—Five flyers from the Miami Naval Air Station were killed Thursday when their JM-1 Marauder plunged into the Atlantic Ocean, 57 miles east of Mayport, Fla., the Navy announced yesterday.

The dead included: Ensign James H. Giesler, 23, Ottawa, Ill.; Ensign J. B. Seaman, 22, Akron, Ohio; Joseph M. Sires, 24, aviation machinist mate, Tilton, Ky.

Chaplain's Board Told Of Army Efforts to Speed Discharges

The Army will do its best to see that half of the 2,000,000 servicemen slated for discharge by mid-1946 are back with their families at Christmas this year, Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Henry, assistant chief of staff for personnel, promised here yesterday.

He spoke at a luncheon meeting of the General Commission of Army and Navy Chaplains honoring Admiral Robert D. Workman, retiring chief of the Navy chaplains, Brig. Gen. Luther D. Miller, new chief of Army chaplains.

"We are straining every effort to bring Johnnie home just as fast as we can," Gen. Henry said. "We are using every bit of captured shipping as well as ships of our Allies," adding that the Army was "filling every chink" of ships crossing the Atlantic and was flying 50,000 men home a month.

Gen. Henry said the Army also disclosed that the Army started its demobilization program about 45 days earlier than originally planned.

Gen. Henry said the point system evolved by the Army represented the fighting man's idea of who should get preferred in leaving the service. He warned, too, that "we are going to try to hold the line on our system" despite tremendous pressure for preferential treatment of many groups and individuals.

The need for more chaplains in both the Army and Navy as well as for the new Chaplain Corps being built up by the Veterans' Administration was urged by several speakers.

Reads Testimonial

The Right Rev. Henry K. Sherrill, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts, who presided at the luncheon, read a testimonial resolution to Admiral Workman from John Kelly, moderator of the Presbytery of Washington.

"When he came to this office the chaplain service was considerably limited in its personnel, but in the years which anticipated the outbreak of war Chaplain Workman has done yeoman service in building up the corps and securing the enlistment of men of high caliber in the ministry of all denominations," the statement said.

357,686 to Be Redeployed From Mediterranean Area

CASERTA, Italy, June 30.—United States Mediterranean headquarters announced last night that 357,686 American soldiers in the Mediterranean theater will be redeployed to the Pacific within the next nine months, 87 per cent of them by way of the United States.

In New York, Col. Edward M. Lastayo, over-all director of Army transportation in the Mediterranean area, was recalled yesterday aboard the S. S. Darien after 37 months overseas, said that troops now were moving out of Italian ports at the rate of 30,000 monthly.

He disclosed that staging areas for redeployment of troops were ready for use even before V-E day.

"We know the way to get to end so we get ready in advance," he said.

Evans Approved by Senate As Librarian of Congress

Dr. Luther H. Evans of Texas was confirmed by the Senate last night as librarian of Congress.

Dr. Evans has been acting librarian since Archibald MacLeish resigned to become an Assistant Secretary of State in charge of public and cultural relations.

Approval was by voice vote.

Further Delays Seen On Leopold Abdication

BRUSSELS, June 30.—Anti-Leopold newspapers appeared resigned today to further delays in the announcement of King Leopold's decision on abdication.

Communists and Socialist sources had reported earlier that Leopold might abdicate tomorrow.

On the other hand, a new quarrel broke out between the Liberal and extreme Royalist newspapers. Liberal editors were accused of "sabotage of the dynastic function" in reporting that Prof. Jacques Pirenne, royal adviser, had failed to collect a new cabinet and that Liberal party leaders were "blatantly" blunting the work that he must give up the throne.

Paul Van Zeeland, former Prime Minister and present high commissioner for reparation, and Albert Weidensaul, Belgian minister of War, planned to leave today for St. Wolfgang, Austria, to confer with the King. Bad flying weather prevented their departure yesterday.

Dr. Roy Bryant Hunter, Retired Scientist, Dies

Dr. Roy Bryant Hunter, 68, a physicist at the Bureau of Standards for a number of years, died last Sunday in Coral Gables, Fla., where funeral services were held Tuesday, according to word received here today.

Dr. Hunter, who moved to Coral Gables after his retirement about a year ago, had been ill for some time.

After serving in France with the coast artillery in the World War, he joined the staff of the Bureau of Standards in 1921. As a result of a series of investigations, he became an authority on the physics of flow in plumbing systems and published many papers on the subject.

He also served as technical adviser to the Subcommittee on Plumbing of the Building Code Committee of the Commerce Department and to the Subcommittee on Plumbing of the Central Housing Committee on Research, Design and Construction.

A native of Guernsey County, Ohio, Dr. Hunter was educated at Yale and New York Universities and taught in several colleges and universities before coming here. He was a resident of Chevy Chase View, Md., before moving to Florida.

His widow, Mrs. Beria E. Hunter, survives.

Strike Slated to Halt Delivery of New York Papers at Midnight

NEW YORK, June 30.—Leaders of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers' Union, armed by an overwhelming strike mandate from its rank and file, moved today to halt distribution at midnight of 11 metropolitan daily newspapers with a combined Sunday circulation of more than 7,500,000.

The unaffiliated union's decision to cease distribution was announced after the members voted last night, 1,648 to 41, to strike.

Hope for a possible settlement was dimmed when representatives of the union failed to appear at a meeting called this morning by the Publishers' Association.

"If the strike occurs, the papers plan to print Monday morning and afternoon editions, but will make no effort to distribute them," the association said in a statement, adding:

"Copies will be available to the public at the plants of the individual papers. This was the procedure followed by the publishers when the same union struck in December, 1942."

Chief issues in the dispute are union demands for wage increases, vacation with pay, severance pay, sick leave, establishment of a welfare fund, and a specified number of holidays with pay.

The War Labor Board, however, in a last-minute effort to avert a strike contended that terms of the contract were extended by the WLB last June 14.

The WLB late yesterday telegraphed union officials that "a strike will violate labor's no-strike pledge."

Affected would be the New York Daily News, Daily Mirror, Herald Tribune, Journal-American, Post, Sun, Times, Wall Street Journal, World-Telegram, Brooklyn Citizen, and Long Island Star-Journal.

Week-day circulation involved is more than 5,000,000.

"The men are going out at the termination of the contract," Dominick Alvina, union official, said. "We've been after the publishers for three months and the last minute they offered us vacations and holidays. There's no clause in the contract that calls for its extension."

Two GIs Hit by Car While Crossing Street

Pvt. Adus J. Hurd, 22, of Fort Meade was critically injured early today and his companion, Corpl. James B. Taylor, also of Fort Meade, suffered a sprained ankle when they were hit by an automobile at New York avenue and M street N.W., police reported. Both are in Walter Reed Hospital where Pvt. Hurd was reported suffering from a skull fracture.

The two soldiers were crossing the street, police reported, when they were struck by a car driven by Donald Fiddesop, 21, of 6120 Montrose road, Chevy Chase, Md. They were first taken to Emergency Hospital and then transferred to Walter Reed.

Fiddesop, a Government employee, was questioned by police in connection with the accident.

Four-year-old Donald Lees, 22, Adams street N.W., suffered a shoulder injury yesterday afternoon, police said, when he walked from between two parked cars near his home into the side of a slowly moving auto driven by Irving Arnold, 37, of 9305 Walden road, Silver Spring, Md. He was taken to Sibley Hospital.

A coroner's jury exonerated Edwin R. Matthews, 26, of Dickerson, Md. yesterday, in the June 13 death of Donald Hatch, 5, of 2000 Sixteenth street N.W. The boy died of a heart attack after being struck accidentally by an auto driven by Matthews, police said.

Arlington Burial Set For Edward A. Mullen

Warrent Officer Edward A. Mullen, sr., a veteran of more than 30 years' service in the Marine Corps, who was stricken while on duty in the Pacific, will be buried in Arlington Cemetery Tuesday.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a. m. in Fort Myer Chapel. Mr. Mullen, 50, is survived by his widow, Julia, and two sons of San Diego, Calif. A native of Ireland, he enlisted in the U. S. army after his arrival in the United States.

FEPC (Continued From First Page.)

erals were "forced to commission" for political reasons.

Senator Eastland quoted American generals further as authority for a story that French Negro Senegalese troops locked 5,000 German girls in camps at the outbreak for five days, "kept them there and criminally assaulted them."

Defends Negro Soldiers.

Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, in a statement last night, defended the Negro soldiers' statement that Negro troops were "abysmal failure" as "unjustified accusations."

Mr. Foreman's statement followed "in strange contrast to the accounts of Negroes' heroism in today's fighting," he said.

He said that the great majority of white Southerners are proud of the work of the Negro soldiers. The only explanation of these unjustified accusations on the part of Senator Eastland is that he was elected by a small minority of the voters of his poll-taxed State.

Jones (Continued From First Page.)

ments of several doctors to the committee was based on "a most unfortunate lack of knowledge of the true situation which exists and has always existed in the Veterans' Administration."

He told the committee that, based on his personal knowledge of hospitals in general, "if I were unfortunate enough to require hospitalization, even under wartime conditions, I would rather be a patient in a hospital than in any other hospital in the world."

Dr. Charles M. Griffith, medical director, testified that at least 75 per cent of the agency's doctors were as good as any doctors in civilian practice. Some undesirable, he admitted, had crept into the organization but these were eliminated as quickly as possible, he insisted.



NAVY OFFICIALS VIEW NAZI HORROR—Retiring Undersecretary of the Navy Ralph A. Bard (left) and the new Undersecretary of the Navy, Artemus L. Gates, are shown as they examined one of the examples of German atrocity in a photomural at the Library of Congress exhibit opening this afternoon. The victim in the mural is one of more than 1,000 civilians burned to death by the Germans in a barn near Gardelegen.

On the Roll of Honor—



Today's Casualty Lists (National.)

Army killed	354
Army wounded	535
Army missing	31
Army liberated	305
Navy killed	212
Navy wounded	154
Navy missing	53
Thus far in this war 1,661 men from the District area have been reported killed.	

Killed

Arthur A. "Bill" Cooper, aviation machinist's mate 3/C, U. S. N. R., 26, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, 2523 Fourteenth street N.W., was killed May 29 while participating in a raid over Japan. Only a few days before his mother received official word of his death she had been informed that he was missing.

In a letter from Mr. Cooper's commanding officer, Mrs. Cooper was told that her son's plane was one of two lost in the mission.

A native of Washington, Mr. Cooper was graduated from Western High School and was a sales manager with the Holmes Bakery prior to his induction in July, 1943. He was overseas in January of this year.

His brother, Lt. Thomas A. Cooper, 25, is in Europe with the Quartermaster Corps.

Pfc. Thomas G. Dovell, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dovell, 2100 Q street N.W., was killed May 18 while serving with the 96th Infantry Division on Okinawa. He had seen action earlier on Leyte after going to the South Pacific in July, 1943.

Pvt. Dovell was employed with the United Trust Co. here before entering the Army in March, 1943. He was a native of Bluefield, W. Va., and attended schools in Culpeper, Va.

His mother is employed at the Thrift Shop, 425 Tenth street N.W. Mrs. J. W. Dovell, whose address is given as 1740 Euclid street N.W., is reported wounded in action.

Hunter W. Fling, hospital apprentice 1/C, U. S. N. R., who is reported wounded in today's official list, was the subject of a story in The Star March 17.

Criminal Operation Trial Sought at Early Date

Attorney James J. Laughlin yesterday asked United States Court of Appeals for permission to file a petition for a writ of mandamus against all of District Court judges to declare "there is no statutory authority for the judges of District Court to take a vacation lasting 11 weeks."

Mr. Laughlin claims that due to the summer District Court recess the defendant probably will not come to trial before fall unless the writ is granted. The petition also declares "there is no statutory authority for the judges of District Court to take a vacation lasting 11 weeks."

Spatz Leaves for U. S. For New Assignment

PARIS, June 30.—Gen. Carl A. Spatz, who directed the world's mightiest air fleet as commander of the United States Army's strategic bombing forces in Europe, took off today en route to the United States for a new undisclosed assignment.

He was accompanied by most of his staff, including Brig. Gen. Edward P. Curtis of Rochester, N. Y., his chief of staff.

Lt. Gen. John K. Cannon, commander of the Allied Air Forces in the Mediterranean, will command the European occupation air forces, it was authoritatively stated.

6 D. C. Area Officers Are Given Awards for Meritorious Service

Brig. Gen. Jerry V. Matejka, 3133 Connecticut avenue N.W., has been awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit for services as chief of the personnel and training service in the office of the chief signal officer, it was announced yesterday.

From August, 1943, to May, 1945, a part of which was during the crucial period of Army combat expansion, Gen. Matejka developed a high degree of efficiency in the personnel. He brought to this work experience gained in combat operations in the North African theater.

Col. William L. Barker, 4000 Cathedral avenue N.W., won the Legion of Merit for his work as project officer on certain essentials of radar equipment. He persuaded commercial agencies to establish research facilities and to collaborate on development contracts. Through his efforts, the citation said, many projects vital to the development of radar were expedited.

Lt. Col. Lawrence C. Sheets, 1201 S. Barton street, Arlington, Va., also received the Legion of Merit as chief of the protective security branch, office of the chief signal officer, from November, 1942, to November, 1944. He demonstrated organizing ability in establishing policies governing the development and use of radio and radar. He also organized schools for training of Army personnel and maintenance of equipment and supervised staff sections of task forces in relation to their functions concerning radio and radar.

Brig. Gen. Ralph M. Hospital, 91st Division Artillery commander, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding duty while serving with the 5th Army, it was revealed in a dispatch from Italy.

According to the citation, "the preparations Gen. Hospital made, the training he had imparted, the high standard of the equipment of his command and the personal attention he had given every phase of artillery enabled the 91st Division Artillery to participate in the Line campaign with complete success."

Gen. Hospital is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hospital, 3500 Fifteenth street N.E. His father, a physician, died in 1914.

Brig. Gen. W. F. Campbell, 818 South Twenty-fifth street, Arlington, has been decorated with a Legion of Merit for outstanding services as chief quartermaster in the Southwest Pacific Area. It was announced by Army headquarters in the Pacific.

According to the citation, he furnished troops with a monthly average of 115,000 ship-ton of supplies and through his organization for saving \$1,000,000 a month.

Col. John H. Woodberry, Ordnance Department, 3541 Quebec street N.W., recently was decorated with the Legion of Merit for exceptional meritorious services as chief of supply in the Pacific theater.

Supply in the Pacific, where, according to the citation, he was responsible for the declassification of thousands of general and combat vehicles previously rendered unserviceable.

New British Air Force To Fight Japs Reported

LONDON, June 30.—The magazine Aeroplane reported today that a new British air force has been formed for dispatch against the Japanese. The Air Ministry refused comment.

"A new British air force has been prepared for dispatch to the Far East," the magazine said. "No details can yet be given or where it is to be based, but it will obviously include Lincoln aircraft."

"This improved type of AVRO (Lancaster) bomber is capable of carrying to the Japanese mainland the heaviest type of bomb yet used by the R.A.F."

The magazine added that the De Havilland Hornet may also exert an important influence on the Pacific war. As with the Lincoln, no details of its performance has been disclosed, "but it is known to be a twin-engine fighter capable of escorting bombers to great range, and it is expected to prove superior to any Japanese fighter," the magazine added.

Thorough Discussion Of Succession Bill Expected in Senate

The fast pace set by the House in showing legislation to make its presiding officer next in line for the presidency is due for a Senate slowdown.

This was plain today because of Senate preoccupation with international relations and a disposition to study out the succession problem thoroughly.

Lusty cheers for veteran Speaker Rayburn accompanied House voice approval late yesterday of the measure making Mr. Rayburn the designated successor of President Truman. Under present law it is the Secretary of State, but only 10 days earlier Mr. Truman asked Congress to put the Speaker ahead.

Some Senate Democrats are reportedly cool in the job for fear a Republican victory in the 1946 congressional elections could have a Republican become House presiding officer with first claim to the presidency in event Mr. Truman did not seek re-election.

The ranking member of the Elections Committee, Senator Bridges, Republican of New Hampshire, has called for prompt action before President Truman leaves for the Big Three meeting in Germany. Senator Tydings, Democrat of Maryland, favors the plan but says it should be considered carefully.